IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, reflecting added subject matter *(underlining)* and deleted subject matter *(strikethrough)*, as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a computer network, comprising:

gaining access to said computer network by use of a portable computing device;

reading biometric data peculiar to a user by the use of a biometric data reader coupled to said portable computing device;

comparing said biometric data to biometric data stored in said computer network for the purpose of identifying the user, and wherein said biometric data is operable to be removed from said portable computing device **on instruction** by a remote station on said computer network**, said remote station retaining a copy of said biometric data**; and

denying further access to said computer network if said data comparison fails to identify said user as an authorized user.

2. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said access to said computer network is by use of a wireless connection.

3. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said biometric data is a fingerprint.

4. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said biometric data is an iris scan.

5. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said biometric data comprises one or more measured electrical characteristics.

6. (Original) A method as in Claim 1 wherein said biometric data can be programmed into said portable computing device by a remote station on said computer network.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a portable computing device, comprising:

reading biometric data peculiar to a user;

storing said biometric data with previously stored biometric data for the purpose of identifying the user, and wherein said biometric data is operable to be removed from said portable computing device **on instruction** by a remote station on said computer network**, said remote station retaining a copy of said biometric data**; and

preventing access in the user is not identified as an authorized user.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 8 wherein said biometric data is a fingerprint.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 8 wherein said biometric data is an iris scan.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 8 wherein said biometric data comprises one or more measured electrical characteristics.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 8 wherein said biometric data stored in said portable computing device can be controlled by a remote station on said computer network.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling access to a computer network, comprising:

a computer network, said computer network comprising one or more computer workstations, wherein access to said computer network is provided by said workstations;

a portable computing device, said portable computing device providing wireless access to said computer network;

a biometric data reading device coupled to said portable computing device;

a data storage device for storing biometric data capable of identifying one and only one user; and

a wireless communication device coupled to said computer network, capable of enabling the loading and removing of said biometric data stored in said portable computing device, and wherein said biometric data is operable to be removed from said portable computing device **on instruction** by one of said workstations on said computer network**, said workstation retaining a copy of said biometric data**.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in Claim 13 wherein said portable computing apparatus comprises;

a bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus;

a data storage device coupled to said bus, capable of storing said biometric data;

a biometric data reader coupled to said bus;

a communication device coupled to said bus for communicating with a computer network; and

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for performing a method for identifying a user by use of said biometric data, said method comprising the steps of **[[;]] :**

reading applicable biometric data; and

comparing said biometric data with said biometric data stored in said memory unit.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 14 wherein said portable computing apparatus is a personal data assistant (PDA).

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 14 wherein said biometric data reader is implemented as part of the portable computing apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 13 wherein said biometric data is a fingerprint.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 13 wherein said biometric data is an iris scan.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in Claim 13 wherein said biometric data is any electronically ~~**storeable**~~ **storable** identifying biometric data.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 13 wherein said biometric data comprises one or more measured electrical characteristics.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 13 wherein said computer network further comprises a remote station connected to said computer network.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in Claim 21 wherein said remote station is for performing a method of network access control, said method comprising:

uploading said biometric data from said portable computing apparatus;

downloading said biometric data to said portable computing apparatus; and

erasing said biometric data from said portable computing apparatus.